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PATENT CLAIMS
I Claim:

1. A method for classifying tangible assets comprising the steps of:

    providing a database for storage of information for identifying said assets;

    establishing within said database one or more order categories for classifying said assets;

    identifying each of said order categories with a first identifier;

    determining which of said order categories describes a given asset;

    designating within said database said given asset as being classified by said order category which describes said given asset;

    assigning said first identifier to said given asset;

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the following steps:

    establishing within said database one or more family categories for classifying said assets;

    identifying each of said family categories with a second identifier;

    determining which of said family categories describes a given asset;

    designating within said database said given asset as being classified by said family category which describes said given asset;

    assigning said first identifier and said second identifier to said given asset;

    combining said first and said second identifiers to define an identifier code.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the following steps:

    establishing within said database one or more genus categories for classifying said assets;

    identifying each of said genus categories with a third identifier;

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1   determining which of said genus categories describes a given asset;

2   designating within said database said given asset as being classified by said genus

3   category   which describes said given asset;

4   assigning said first identifier, said second identifier, and said third identifier to said given

5   asset.

6   combining said first, second, and third identifiers to further define said identifier code.

7   4.   The method of claim 3, further comprising the following steps:

8   establishing within said database one or more species categories for classifying said given

9   asset;

10   identifying each of said species categories with a fourth identifier;

11   determining which of said species categories describes a given asset;

12   designating within said database said given asset as being classified by said species

13   category which describes said given asset;

14   assigning said first identifier, said second identifier, said third identifier, and said fourth

15   identifier to said given asset;

16   combining said first, second, third, and fourth identifiers to further define said identifier

17   code.

18   5.   The method of claim 4, further comprising the following steps:

19   establishing within said database one or more sub-species categories for classifying said

20   given asset;

21   identifying each of said sub-species categories with a fifth identifier;

22   determining which of said sub-species categories describes a given asset; and

1   designating within said database said given asset as being classified by said sub-species

2   category which describes said given asset;

3   assigning said first identifier, said second identifier, said third identifier, said fourth

4   identifier, and said fifth identifier to said given asset;

5   combining said first, second, third, fourth and fifth identifiers to further define said

6   identifier code.

7   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein said order categories are selected from the group

8 consisting of: fine art, decorative art, antiquities, other discrete disciplines, and collectibles.

9   7.   The method of claim 6, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category, said

10 family category being selected from the group consisting of: paintings, sculpture, works on

11 paper, and tapestries.

12   8.   The method of claim 6, wherein said given asset is of said decorative art order category,

13 said family category being selected from the group consisting of furniture, decorations, couture,

14 ephemera, and textiles.

15   9.   The method of claim 6, wherein said given asset is of said antiquities order category,

16 said family category being selected from the group consisting of ancient near east, Egyptian,

17 Etruscan/Roman, early church, Greek & Hellenistic, pre-Columbian, and pre-history.

18   10.   The method of claim 6, wherein said given asset is of said other discrete disciplines order

19 category, said family category being selected from the group consisting of arms and armor,

20 Asian art, books, bindings, manuscripts, signatures and maps, carpets, clocks, timepieces and

21 scientific instruments, contemporary forms in media and action, Islamic art, Judaica, and tribal

22 art.

1 11. The method of claim 6, wherein said given asset is of said collectibles order category,

2 said family category being selected from the group consisting of animation and comic art, coins,

3 geophysical and mineral, sports memorabilia, stamps, toys, vintage cars, and wines.

4 12. The method of claim 7, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category and said

5 paintings family category, said genus category being selected from the group consisting of:

6 American through 19th century, English through the 19th century, French through the 19th

7 century, other continental through the 19th century, contemporary, modernist 20th century

8 masterworks, illuminations and incunabula, Latin America, mannerist, medieval, old master, and

9 renaissance.

10 13. The method of claim 7, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category and said

11 sculpture family category, said genus category being selected from the group consisting of:

12 American through 19th century, English through the 19th century, French through the 19th

13 century, other continental through the 19th century, contemporary, modernist 20th century

14 masterworks, late roman, gothic and medieval, renaissance, and garden sculpture.

15 14. The method of claim 7, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category and said

16 works on paper family category, the genus category being selected from the group consisting of:

17 drawings, watercolors, photographs, the other print media, contemporary, and modernist 20th

18 century masterworks.

19 15. The method of claim 8, wherein said given asset is of said decorative art order category

20 and said furniture family category, said genus category being selected from the group consisting

21 of: American through 19th century, English through the 19th century, French through the 19th

22 century, other continental through the 19th century, and modernist 20th century masterworks.

1   16.   The method of claim 8, wherein said given asset is of said decorative art order category

2   and said decorations family category, said genus category being selected from the group

3   consisting of: American through 19th century, English through the 19th century, French through

4   the 19th century, other continental through the 19th century, and modernist 20th century

5   masterworks.

6   17.   The method of claim 8, wherein said given asset is of said decorative art order category

7   and said couture family category, said genus category being selected from the group consisting

8   of: costumes, accessories, and precious and other jewelry.

9   18.   The method of claim 9, wherein said given asset is of said antiquities order category and

10   said ancient near east family category, said genus category being selected from the group

11   consisting of: fine art, coinage, and articles of daily life.

12   19.   The method of claim 9, wherein said given asset is of said antiquities order category and

13   said Egyptian family category, said genus category being selected from the group consisting of:

14   fine art and articles of daily life.

15   20.   The method of claim 9, wherein said given asset is of said antiquities order category and

16   said Etruscan/Roman family category, said genus category being selected from the group

17   consisting of: fine art, coinage, and articles of daily life.

18   21.   The method of claim 9, wherein said given asset is of said antiquities order category and

19   said early church family category, said genus category being selected from the group consisting

20   of: fine art, coinage, and articles of daily life.

1   22.   The method of claim 9, wherein said given asset is of said antiquities order category and

2   said Greek & Hellenistic family category, said genus category being selected from the group

3   consisting of: fine art, coinage, and articles of daily life.

4   23.   The method of claim 9, wherein said given asset is of said antiquities order category and

5   said pre-Columbian family category, said genus category being selected from the group

6   consisting of: fine art and articles of daily life.

7   24.   The method of claim 10, wherein said given asset is of said other discrete disciplines

8   order category and said Asian art family category, said genus category being selected from the

9   group consisting of: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indian, and central and southeast Asian.

10   25.   The method of claim 10, wherein said given asset is of said other discrete disciplines

11   order category and said tribal art family category; said genus category being selected from the

12   group consisting of: American Indian art, African art, and oceanic art.

13   26.   The method of claim 12, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category, said

14   paintings family category, and said American through 19th century genus category; said species

15   category being selected from the group consisting of: American school, itinerant painters, and

16   impressionists.

17   27.   The method of claim 12, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category, said

18   paintings family category, and said English through 19th century genus category; said species

19   category being Victorian.

20   28.   The method of claim 12, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category, said

21   paintings family category, and said French through 19th century genus category; said species

22   category being selected from the group consisting of: Barbizon school and Impressionists.

1   29.   The method of claim 12, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category, said

2   paintings family category, and said modernist 20th century masterworks genus category; said

3   species category being American.

4   30.   The method of claim 22, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category, of

5   said paintings family category, of said American through 19th century genus category, and of

6   said American school species category, said sub-species category selected from the group

7   consisting of: 1850 through 1900 and Hudson River school.

8   31.   The method of claim 13, wherein said given asset is of the fine art order category, of said

9   sculpture family category, and of said French through 19th century genus category, said species

10   category being 19th century.

11   32.   The method of claim 27, wherein said given asset is of the fine art order category, of said

12   sculpture family category, and of said French through 19th century genus category, and of said

13   19th century species category, said sub-species category selected from the group consisting of:

14   metalwork and stonework.

15   33.   The method of claim 14, wherein said given asset is of the fine art order category, of said

16   works on paper family category, and of said drawings genus category, said species category

17   selected from the group consisting of: old master and other.

18   34.   The method of claim 15, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

19   of said furniture family category, and of said American through 19th century, said species

20   category being seat & case.

1   35.   The method of claim 15, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

2   of said furniture family category, and of said English through 19th century genus category, said

3   species category being seat & case.

4   36.   The method of claim 15, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

5   of said furniture family category, and of said French through 19th century genus category, said

6   species category being seat & case.

7   37.   The method of claim 34, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

8   of said furniture family category, of said American through 19th century genus category, and of

9   said seat & case species category, said sub-species category being 1750 through 1800.

10   38.   The method of claim 34, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

11   of said furniture family category, of said English through 19th century genus category, and of

12   said seat & case species category, said sub-species category being 1750 through 1800.

13   39.   The method of claim 34, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

14   of said furniture family category, of said French through 19th century genus category, and of said

15   seat & case species category, said sub-species category being 1750 through 1800.

16   40.   The method of claim 16, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

17   of said decorations family category, of said American through 19th century genus category, said

18   sub-species category selected from the group consisting of: ceramic, metalwork: precious or

19   other, stonework, glass, and wood.

20   41.   The method of claim 16, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

21   of said decorations family category, of said English through 19th century genus category, said

1   sub-species category selected from the group consisting of: ceramic, metalwork: precious or

2   other, stonework, glass, and wood.

3   42.   The method of claim 16, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

4   of said decorations family category, of said French through 19th century genus category, said

5   sub-species category selected from the group consisting of: ceramic, metalwork: precious or

6   other, stonework, glass, and wood.

7   43.   The method of claim 16, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

8   of said decorations family category, of said other continental through 19th century genus

9   category, said sub-species category selected from the group consisting of: ceramic, metalwork:

10   precious or other, stonework, glass, and wood.

11   44.   The method of claim 5, further comprising the following steps:

12   storing valuation information of said given asset within said database; and

13   valuing said given asset by comparing said valuation information and said classification

14   of said given asset.

15   45.   A computer readable medium comprising a plurality of instructions for classifying

16   tangible assets, which when read by a computer, causes the computer to perform the following

17   steps of:

18   receiving information regarding a given asset;

19   storing said information into a database;

20   establishing within said database one or more order categories for classifying said assets;

21   identifying each of said order categories with a first identifier;

22   determining which of said order categories describes a given asset;

1   designating within said database said given asset as being classified by said order

2   category   which describes said given asset;

3   assigning said first identifier to said given asset.

4   46.   The medium of claim 45, wherein said plurality of instructions causes the computer to

5   perform the additional steps of:

6   establishing within said database one or more family categories for classifying said

7   assets;

8   identifying each of said family categories with a second identifier;

9   determining which of said family categories describes a given asset;

10   designating within said database said given asset as being classified by said family

11   category which describes said given asset;

12   assigning said first identifier and said second identifiers to said given asset;

13   combining said first and second identifiers to define an identifier code.

14   47.   The medium of claim 46, wherein said plurality of instructions causes the computer to

15   perform the additional steps of:

16   establishing within said database one or more genus categories for classifying said assets;

17   identifying each of said genus categories with a third identifier;

18   determining which of said genus categories describes a given asset;

19   designating within said database said given asset as being classified by said genus

20   category which describes said given asset;

21   assigning said first identifier, said second identifier, and said third identifier to said given

22   asset;

1 combining said first, second and third identifiers to further define said identifier code.

2 48. The medium of claim 47, wherein said plurality of instructions causes the computer to

3 perform the additional steps of:

4 establishing within said database one or more species categories for classifying said given

5 asset;

6 identifying each of said species categories with a fourth identifier;

7 determining which of said species categories describes a given asset;

8 designating within said database said given asset as being classified by said species

9 category which describes said given asset;

10 assigning said first identifier, said second identifier, said third identifier, and said fourth

11 identifier to said given asset;

12 combining said first, second, third and fourth identifiers to further define said identifier

13 code.

14 49. The medium of claim 48, wherein said plurality of instructions causes the computer to

15 perform the additional steps of:

16 establishing within said database one or more sub-species categories for classifying said

17 given asset;

18 identifying each of said sub-species categories with a fifth identifier;

19 determining which of said sub-species categories describes a given asset; and

20 designating within said database said given asset as being classified by said sub-species

21 category which describes said given asset;

1   assigning said first identifier, said second identifier, said third identifier, said fourth

2   identifier, and said fifth identifier to said given asset;

3   combining said first, second, third, fourth and fifth identifiers to further define said

4   identifier code.

5   50.   The medium of claim 49, wherein said order categories are selected from the group

6   consisting of: fine art, decorative art, antiquities, other discrete disciplines, and collectibles.

7   51.   The medium of claim 50, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category, said

8   family category being selected from the group consisting of: paintings, sculpture, works on

9   paper, and tapestries.

10   52.   The medium of claim 50, wherein said given asset is of said decorative art order

11   category, said family category being selected from the group consisting of furniture, decorations,

12   couture, ephemera, and textiles.

13   53.   The medium of claim 50, wherein said given asset is of said antiquities order category,

14   said family category being selected from the group consisting of ancient near east, Egyptian,

15   Etruscan/Roman, early church, Greek & Hellenistic, pre-Columbian, and pre-history.

16   54.   The medium of claim 50, wherein said given asset is of said other discrete disciplines

17   order category, said family category being selected from the group consisting of arms and armor,

18   asian art, books, bindings, manuscripts, signatures and maps, carpets, clocks, timepieces and

19   scientific insruments, contemporary forms in media and action, Islamic art, Judaica, and tribal

20   art.

1   55.   The medium of claim 50, wherein said given asset is of said collectibles order category,

2   said family category being selected from the group consisting of animation and comic art, coins,

3   geophysical and mineral, sports memorabilia, stamps, toys, vintage cars, and wines.

4   56.   The medium of claim 51, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category and

5   said paintings family category, said genus category being selected from the group consisting of:

6   American through 19th century, English through the 19th century, French through the 19th

7   century, other continental through the 19th century, contemporary, modernist 20th century

8   masterworks, illuminations and incunabula, Latin America, mannerist, medieval, old master, and

9   renaissance.

10   57.   The medium of claim 51, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category and

11   said sculpture family category, said genus category being selected from the group consisting of:

12   American through 19th century, English through the 19th century, French through the 19th

13   century, other continental through the 19th century, contemporary, modernist 20th century

14   masterworks, late Roman, gothic and medieval, renaissance, and garden sculpture.

15   58.   The medium of claim 51, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category and

16   said works on paper family category, the genus category being selected from the group

17   consisting of: drawings, watercolors, photographs, the other print media, contemporary, and

18   modernist 20th century masterworks.

19   59.   The medium of claim 52, wherein said given asset is of said decorative art order category

20   and said furniture family category, said genus category being selected from the group consisting

21   of: American through 19th century, English through the 19th century, French through the 19th

22   century, other continental through the 19th century, and modernist 20th century masterworks.

1   60.   The medium of claim 52, wherein said given asset is of said decorative art order category

2   and said decorations family category, said genus category being selected from the group

3   consisting of: American through 19th century, English through the 19th century, French through

4   the 19th century, other continental through the 19th century, and modernist 20th century

5   masterworks.

6   61.   The medium of claim 52, wherein said given asset is of said decorative art order category

7   and said couture family category, said genus category being selected from the group consisting

8   of: costumes, accessories, and precious and other jewelry.

9   62.   The medium of claim 53, wherein said given asset is of said antiquities order category

10   and said ancient near east family category, said genus category being selected from the group

11   consisting of: fine art, coinage, and articles of daily life.

12   63.   The medium of claim 53, wherein said given asset is of said antiquities order category

13   and said Egyptian family category, said genus category being selected from the group consisting

14   of: fine art and articles of daily life.

15   64.   The medium of claim 53, wherein said given asset is of said antiquities order category

16   and said Etruscan/Roman family category, said genus category being selected from the group

17   consisting of: fine art, coinage, and articles of daily life.

18   65.   The medium of claim 53, wherein said given asset is of said antiquities order category

19   and said early church family category, said genus category being selected from the group

20   consisting of: fine art, coinage, and articles of daily life.

1   66.   The medium of claim 53, wherein said given asset is of said antiquities order category

2   and said Greek & Hellenistic family category, said genus category being selected from the group

3   consisting of: fine art, coinage, and articles of daily life.

4   67.   The medium of claim 53, wherein said given asset is of said antiquities order category

5   and said pre-Columbian family category, said genus category being selected from the group

6   consisting of: fine art and articles of daily life.

7   68.   The medium of claim 54, wherein said given asset is of said other discrete disciplines

8   order category and said Asian art family category, said genus category being selected from the

9   group consisting of: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indian, and central and southeast Asian.

10   69.   The medium of claim 54, wherein said given asset is of said other discrete disciplines

11   order category and said tribal art family category; said genus category being selected from the

12   group consisting of: American Indian art, African art, and oceanic art.

13   70.   The medium of claim 56, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category, said

14   paintings family category, and said American through 19th century genus category; said species

15   category being selected from the group consisting of: American school, itinerant painters, and

16   Impressionists.

17   71.   The medium of claim 56, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category, said

18   paintings family category, and said English through 19th century genus category; said species

19   category being Victorian.

20   72.   The medium of claim 56, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category, said

21   paintings family category, and said French through 19th century genus category; said species

22   category being selected from the group consisting of: barbizon school and impressionists.

1   73.   The medium of claim 56, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category, said

2   paintings family category, and said modernist 20th century masterworks genus category; said

3   species category being American.

4   74.   The medium of claim 52, wherein said given asset is of said fine art order category, of

5   said paintings family category, of said American through 19th century genus category, and of

6   said American School species category, said sub-species category selected from the group

7   consisting of: 1850 through 1900 and Hudson River School.

8   75.   The medium of claim 57, wherein said given asset is of the fine art order category, of said

9   sculpture family category, and of said French through 19th genus category, said species category

10   being 19th century.

11   76.   The medium of claim 75, wherein said given asset is of the fine art order category, of said

12   sculpture family category, of said French through 19th genus category, and of said 19th century

13   species category, said sub-species category selected from the group consisting of: metalwork

14   and stonework.

15   77.   The medium of claim 58, wherein said given asset is of the fine art order category, of said

16   works on paper family category, of said drawings genus category, said species category selected

17   from the group consisting of: old master and other.

18   78.   The medium of claim 59, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

19   of said furniture family category, of said American through 19th century, English through 19th

20   century or French through 19th genus category, said species category being seat and case.

1   79.   The medium of claim 78, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

2   of said furniture family category, of said American through 19th century genus category, and of

3   said seat and case species category, said sub-species category being 1750 through 1800.

4   80.   The medium of claim 78, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

5   of said furniture family category, of said English through 19th century genus category, and of

6   said seat and case species category, said sub-species category being 1750 through 1800.

7   81.   The medium of claim 78, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

8   of said furniture family category, of said French through 19th century genus category, and of said

9   seat and case species category, said sub-species category being 1750 through 1800.

10   82.   The medium of claim 60, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

11   of said decorations family category, American through 19th century genus category, said sub-

12   species category selected from the group consisting of: ceramic, metalwork: precious or other,

13   stonework, glass, and wood.

14   83.   The medium of claim 60, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

15   of said decorations family category, English through 19th century genus category, said sub-

16   species category selected from the group consisting of: ceramic, metalwork: precious or other,

17   stonework, glass, and wood.

18   84.   The medium of claim 60, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

19   of said decorations family category, French through 19th century genus category, said sub-

20   species category selected from the group consisting of: ceramic, metalwork: precious or other,

21   stonework, glass, and wood.

1   85.   The medium of claim 60, wherein said given asset is of the decorative art order category,

2   of said decorations family category, Other Continental through 19th century genus category, said

3   sub-species category selected from the group consisting of: ceramic, metalwork: precious or

4   other, stonework, glass, and wood.

5   86.   The medium of claim 49, wherein said plurality of instructions causes the computer to

6   perform the additional steps of:

7   storing valuation information of said given asset within said database; and

8   valuing said given asset by comparing said valuation information and said classification

9   of said given asset.

10   87.   A computer system for classifying tangible assets comprising:

11   a database for storing asset information; and

12   a processing unit for establishing one or more order categories for classifying said assets,

13   for identifying a first identifier for each of said order categories, for determining

14   which order category describes a given asset, and for designating said given asset

15   as being classified by said order category that describes said given asset, said

16   processing unit coupled to said database.

17   88.   The computer system of claim 87, further comprising a processing unit for establishing

18   one or more family categories for classifying said assets, for identifying a second identifier for

19   each of said family categories, for determining which family category describes a given asset, for

20   designating said given asset as being classified by said family category that describes said given

21   asset, for assigning said first and said second identifiers to said given asset and for combining

1   said first and second identifiers to define said identifier code, said processing unit coupled to said

2   database.

3   89.   The computer system of claim 88, further comprising a processing unit for establishing

4   one or more genus categories for classifying said assets, for identifying a third identifier for each

5   of said genus categories, for determining which genus category describes a given asset, for

6   designating said given asset as being classified by said genus category that describes said given

7   asset, for assigning said first identifier, said second identifier, and said third identifier to said

8   given asset and for combining said first, second and third identifiers to further define said

9   identifier code said processing unit coupled to said database.

10   90.   The computer system of claim 89, further comprising a processing unit for establishing

11   one or more species categories for classifying said assets, for identifying a fourth identifier for

12   each of said species categories, for determining which species category describes a given asset,

13   for designating said given asset as being classified by said species category that describes said

14   given asset, for assigning said first identifier, said second identifier, said third identifier, and said

15   fourth identifier to said given asset and for combining said first, second, third and fourth

16   identifiers to further define said identifier code said processing unit coupled to said database.

17   91.   The computer system of claim 90, further comprising a processing unit for establishing

18   one or more sub-species categories for classifying said assets, for identifying a fifth identifier for

19   each of said sub-species categories, for determining which sub-species category describes a

20   given asset, for designating said given asset as being classified by said sub-species category that

21   describes said given asset, for assigning said first identifier, said second identifier, said third

22   identifier, said fourth identifier, and said fifth identifier to said given asset and for combining

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1   said first, second, third, fourth and fifth identifiers to further define said identifier code, said

2   processing unit coupled to said database.

3   92.   The system of claim 87, further comprising an input device for receiving valuation

4   information, said processing unit capable of comparing said valuation information to said

5   classification of said given asset such that the value of said given asset may be determined.

6   93.   A method for classifying tangible assets comprising the steps of:

7   providing a classification hierarchy that includes a plurality of categories;

8   classifying at least one given asset by generating classification output that indicates the

9   order category of said given asset.

10   94.   The method of claim 93 further comprising the following step:

11   classifying said given asset by generating classification output that indicates the family

12   category for said given asset.

13   95.   The method of claim 94 further comprising the following step:

14   classifying said given asset by generating classification output that indicates the genus

15   category for said given asset.

16   96.   The method of claim 95 further comprising the following step:

17   classifying said given asset by generating classification output that indicates the species

18   category for said given asset.

19   97.   The method of claim 96 further comprising the following step:

20   classifying said given asset by generating classification output that indicates the sub-

21   species category for said given asset.

22   98.   The method of claim 97 further comprising the step of:

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1   assigning a first, second, third, fourth and fifth identifier to said order, family, genus,

2   species, and sub-species categories respectively.

3   99.   The method of claim 98 further comprising the following steps:

4   combining said first, second, third, fourth, and fifth identifiers to define an identifier

5   code.

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